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Oakville

Mrs. Margaret Marshall spent the week end with her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Marshall and attended the graduation of her granddaughter.

Mrs. Gladys Taylor, of Kingsport, Tenn., was house guest of her sister, Mrs. Alise Drinkard last week end.

Those visitng in the home of Mrs. Maggie Gardner and Ethel during the week end were Mr. and Mrs. Walker Cawthorne, of Crewe, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Garnder, of Lynchburg, and Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Cawthorne, John Walker and Shawna Faye.

There were 72 family members of the late Mr. and Mrs. Emmitt B. Martin who met at the home of Louis Moore Sunday for a picnic lunch and afternoon of fellowship.

Mrs. Clarke Moore attended the UDC meeting Saturday in Lynchburg at Memorial Methodist Church.

Mrs. Dora Coleman, Mrs. Clark Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Clake Moore, Mrs. Margaret Marshall and Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Marshall and Doug attended the commencement exercises at Prince Edward Academy on Friday night.

Congratulations to Miss Kathy Marshall in being a Cum Laude honor graduate.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Richardson and Bill were dinner guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Smith, Michael and Todd.

Mr. and Mrs. Beryl Covington visited his aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson King in Vera Sunday night.

Peg Bowser and J. C. MacMillan rehearse scene from Campbell County Little Theatre production, "Lo and Behold".

Campbell County Recreation Dept. To Present Comedy Play

"Lo and Behold", a comedy play by John Patrick, will be presented at Rustburg Middle School on June 15 at 8 p.m. General admission is $2.00 and tickets may be purchased at the door.

The play is being sponsored by the Campbell Recreation Depatment, Little Theater which produced "Annie Get Your Gun" last fall.

"Lo and Behold", will provide a highly entertaining evening for the whole family! The story concerns a contankerous elderly man, Milo Alcott who has been an invalid for many years. He leaves this world in a blaze of glory by eating a sumptuous gourmet meal and promptly returns in spirit form to haunt his own house, which is his wish. He is however, invaded by three other comical ghosts, a southern belle, an Indian and a frustrated composer. The play also includes an appealing love story and a "bookie" who is interested in causing trouble.

Mr. Hal ("Jimbo") Blankenship is directing the play. Hal is a former resident of Rustburg who has been working in theater in New York City for several years, and has come back home temporily to do this play.

"Lo and Behold" will be touring Campbell County. It opens on June 15 at Rustburg Middle School, June 16 at William Campbell High School, June 17 at Altavista High School, and June 18 at Brookville High School Auditorium.

The cast is headed by Mr. J. C. MacMillan playing Milo Alcott, who has had considerable experience in theater productions in this area, and Dawn Walker and John Nolan. Other performers are Peg Bowser, Keith Stevens, Donna Keesee, Gregg Vetter and Jim Lonergan.

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The Pastor Speaks

THE WRATH TO COME
Matthew 3:7

It is nice to look over theland after rain has been through; to smell the freshness after the rain has passed away, and see the beautiful rainbow. That is the position of a Christian. He is going through a land where the storm has spent itself upon his Savior, and if there be a few drops of sorrow falling, they come from clouds of mercy, and Jesus cheers us by the assurance that they are not foir our destruction. But, how terrible is it to witness the approach of a tempest; to see the forewarnings of the storm; to see the birds as they droop their wings; to see the cattle as they lay their heads low in terror; to watch as the sky black, and see no sun shining. How terrible to await the dread advance of a hurricane, such as we had had in some states recently, to wait in terrible apprehension until the wind rushes forth in fury, tearing up trees from their roots, forcing rocks from the ground, and crushing houses.

And yet, this is your present position.No hot drops have as yet fallen, but a shower of fire is coming. No terrible winds howl around you, but God's tempest is gathering its dread artillery. As yet the floods are dammed up by His Mercy, but the flood-gates shall soon be opened; the thunderbolts of God are yet in His storehouse, but watch out, the tempest hastens, and how awful shall that moment be when God, robed in vengeance, shall march forth in fury! Where then sinner, will you hid your head, or where will you flee? Oh that hand of mercy may now lead you to Christ! He is freely set before you in the gospel; He is the rock of shelter. You know your need of Him; believe in Him; cast yourself upon Him and then the terrible storm of His vengeance will not come your way.

Rev. Earnie W. Lucas
Bible Baptist Church
Appomattox, Va.

The Sunday School Lesson

COMMENTS BY HERBERT C. BRADSHAW

LESSON FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 1976

The Church Organizes

Scripture: Acts 6: 1-6; Romans 16: 1-6; Ephesians 4: ll-16; 1 Timothy 3: 1-13

His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the equipment of the saints, for the work of ministry, for building up the body of christ. Ephesians 4: 11-12

In its early days the Christian Church looked to the apostles for leadership and guidance. Because the apostles had been with Jesus from the beginning of His ministry, had been taught by Him and were witnesses to His resurrection, believers regarded them as authoritative in their proclamation and interpretation of the wordand in their instruction in faith and practice.

As the church grew in membership, the apostles found it impossible to carry on the necessary administrative work and the ministry of witness.

Dissatisfaction on the part of some members (Hellenists, Jews who accepted Greek Culture and used the Greek Language) over the distribution of food to needy church members in Jerusalem prompted the apostles to propose the election of seven men to be responsible for this ministry. The Jerusalem Church accepted the proposal and elected seven to an office which is generally regarded as that of deacon. The church shared with the apostles the feeling that they should give priority to preaching.

In a few years another office appears in the Jersaleum church, that of presbyter or elder. When the church at Antioch referred to the church at Jerusalem the question of admitting Gentiles to membership without requiring them to be circumcised, the apostles elders heard the matter and drafted the letter which resolved the issue, at least officially.

As the Church spread far from Jersaleum, into Syria and Asia Minor, Greece and Italy, the need of organization became all the more obvious, to maintain orthodoxy of faith and Christian standards of practice. Paul, an apostle, wrote letters to churches to answer questions, resolve difficulties and give guidance in both theology and living. He also sent representatives, as Timothy and Titus, with instructions to the churches.

Although the New Testament leaves no question that there was organization in the churches, it is not at all explicit as to the nature of organization. In several epietles, Paul lists offices or ministries in the Church. In each instance, the ministry of the word is given priority from the rank given apostles, prophets (preachers), evangelists and teachers. There are other ministries also, essential to carrying on the work of the Church. Significantly, organization in the early Church is identified with ministry, or service. In the scripture quoted at the beginning of this comment is a summary of the porpose of organization in the church.

The use of different terms, bishop and elder, apparently to indicate the same or similar office complcates the portrayal of New Testament church organization. No indiation of the institution of these offices is given. In Acts 20: 17:38 is an account of the meeting of Paul with the elders of the church at Ephesus; in speaking to them, he refers to them as bishops (episkopoi), translated overseers in the King James version, guardians in the Revised Standard. In 1 Timothy 3, Paul lists the qualifications of bishops and deacons, which are similar, though the offices are evidently different. In 1 Timothy 5, Paul refers to elders, showing that they have one duty bishops have, teaching. Some scholars have suggested that the term elder was used in predominately Jewish congregations (a term familiar to Jews since synagogues had elders), the term bishop in predominantly Gentile churches. At any rate, Paul used the terms interchangeably.

Out of the New Testament references have come three different types of church organization today: espicopal, in which the bishop is the chief officer, with varying degrees of authority, depending upon the Church; presbyterian, in which elders constitute the several church courts or governing bodies, and congregational, in which authority is vested in the congregation. The episcopal system developed as the church grew and additional churches were established in a city and its surrounding area, the bishop of the oldest or principal church begoming bishop of the area. The presbyterian and congregational forms date from the protestant Reformation, but base their claims to authority on patterns found in the New Testament.

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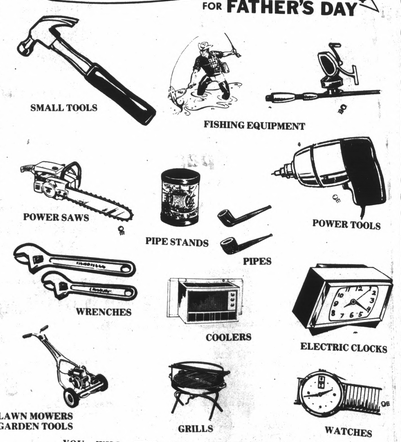

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